

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claim 1 as follows:

a² *Sub B1* --1. (amended) A biologically pure (strain) of *Lactobacillus plantarum*, strain LB931, which has been deposited at Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen, and been assigned accession number DSM11918.--

Cancel claim 2. ✓

Amend claim 4 as follows:

a³ --4. (amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, further comprising other lactic acid bacteria.--

[Amend claim 5 as follows:]

Sub B2 --5. (amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3 comprising 10^4 to 10^{11} colony-forming units, LB931.--

Amend claim 7 as follows:

Sub B3 --7. (amended) An absorbent product comprising *Lactobacillus plantarum*, strain LB931, which has been deposited at Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen, and been assigned accession number DSM11918.--

a⁴ [Amend claim 8 as follows:]

--8. (amended) An absorbent product according to claim 7, comprising 10^4 to 10^{11} cfu, LB931.--

[Amend claim 9 as follows:]

--9. (amended) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 5 wherein said pharmaceutical acceptable carrier is skimmed milk or a lactobacillus growth factor in powder or other

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Cancel claim 10.

Cancel claim 11.

Add the following new claims:

Inv B4

--12. (new) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 3, wherein said LB931 is in an amount of 10^5 to 10^9 cfu.

--13. (new) The absorbent product according to claim 7, wherein said absorbent product is selected from the group consisting of a feminine hygiene product, diaper, sanitary napkin, panty guard and incontinence guard.

--14. (new) The absorbent product according to claim 8, wherein LB931 is an amount of 10^5 to 10^9 cfu.

a5

Inv B5

15. (new) A method of preparing a pharmaceutical composition for preventing and/or treating urogenital infections, comprising:

adding *Lactobacillus plantarum*, strain LB931, which has been deposited at Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen, and has been assigned accession number DSM11918 to said pharmaceutical composition.

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--16. (new) The pharmaceutical composition according to claim 15, wherein a colonization of enterobacteria is prevented or treated.

--17. (new) A method of preparing an absorbent product suitable for preventing and/or treating urogenital infections, comprising:

adding *Lactobacillus plantarum*, strain LB931, which has been deposited at Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen, and has been assigned accession number DSM11918 to said absorbent product.

Sub 7 --18. (new) The absorbent product according to claim 15, wherein a colonization of enterobacteria is prevented or treated.

as cont. --19. (new) The absorbent product according to claim 18, wherein said absorbent product is selected from the group consisting of a diaper, sanitary napkin, panty guard, incontinence guard and feminine hygiene product.

--20. (new) A method for preventing and/or treating urogenital infections in a patient, comprising:

administering *Lactobacillus plantarum*, strain LB931, which has been deposited at Deutsche Sammlung von Mikroorganismen, and has been assigned accession number DSM11918 in an effective amount to said patient.

Sub 8 --21. (new) The method according to claim 20, wherein said *Lactobacillus plantarum* is administered to said patient via a pharmaceutical composition.

as
incl.

--22. (new) The method according to claim 20, wherein said *Lactobacillus plantarum* is administered to said patient by placing an absorbent product containing *Lactobacillus plantarum* in close contact with the skin of said patient, said absorbent product selected from the group consisting of a diaper, sanitary napkin, panty guard, incontinence guard and feminine hygiene product.

Sub B1

--23. (new) The absorbent product according to claim 20, wherein a colonization of enterobacteria is prevented or treated.--

Please make of record the following declarations:

1. The Declaration of Maria ISAKSSON,
2. The Declaration of Availability and Maintenance of Microorganism, and
3. The Statement of Unavailability of ATCC 55883 *Lactobacillus plantarum*.

REMARKS

This application has been amended in a manner that places it in condition for allowance at the time of the next Official Action.

In the outstanding Official Action, claim 1 was rejected under 35 USC §101 for allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

It is respectfully submitted that the 35 USC §101 rejection has been obviated. As suggested by the Examiner, claim